

Table 1 Breeding swans, brood size

Territory (one pair per territory)	Length (km)	1998 Summer	1999 Summer	When hatched	1999 Winter	2000 Summer
Kirkintilloch to Tintoek	2.3	Not checked	6	Early	8 to 12 *	3+4 ¹
Tintoek to Twechar	2.4	Vacant	3	Late	None	4
Twechar to Auchinstarry	2.6	6	Vacant	-	-	3
Auchinstarry to Craigmarloch	2.9	7	9	Early	8	3
Craigmarloch to Kelvinhead	2.1	3	2	Late	1	3
Kelvinhead to Wyndford	2.0	5	8	Early	2	8
Wyndford to A80	1.4	2	4	Late	Vacant	None
Totals	15.7	23	32	-	-	28

* includes winter visitors

¹ two pairs occupying territory

References

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Further confirmation of the presence of Sika deer on Loch Lomondside

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During a visit to the head of Gleann nan Caorunn with Tim Jacobs on 27th July 1999, a herd of red deer *Cervus elephus* was observed moving across the south face of Ben Lui. From the group could be heard the distinctive whistling call of Sika deer *C. nippon*, although because of the distance it was not possible to determine if more than one animal was involved. Sika deer have previously been reported on Loch Lomondside in the Tarbet and Inversnaid areas (Mitchell, 1985; Trubridge, 1990).

As this introduced Japanese species continues to extend its range in Scotland, instances of inter-breeding with the larger red deer are well documented (Ratcliffe, 1987). Taking a pessimistic view, the long-term future of red deer – Britain's last great land mammal – appears to hang in the balance from introgressive hybridisation

with Sika; perhaps eventually with the pure blood line preserved only on some of the isolated Scottish islands such as Rum.

References

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